

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An adaptive method for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the method comprising:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including a first plurality of text items and a stylistic attribute associated with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the stylistic attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked text items;

generating and storing first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the stylistic attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the stylistic attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the first weight assigned to at least one of the first plurality of text items is increased in response to the text item being located in a specific region of the first active computer task.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the specific region is a region of the first active computer task that is selected by a user.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming a plurality of search terms based on the first plurality of ranked text items.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the system comprising:

a data processor for processing data;
a data storage device for storing instructions; and
a data transmission path coupled to the data processor and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, controls the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including a first plurality of text items and a stylistic attribute associated

with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the stylistic attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked text items;

generating and storing first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the stylistic attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the stylistic attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 further comprising forming a plurality of search terms based on the first plurality of ranked text items.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage device bearing instructions for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including the first plurality of text items and a stylistic attribute associated with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the stylistic attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked text items;

generating and storing first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the stylistic attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the stylistic attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the stylistic attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 10--29. (Cancelled)

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1 further including the step of determining properties of the first active computer task;

wherein the first weight is tunable based on the properties of the first active computer task.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the properties of the first active computer task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, a genre of the first active computer task, attributes associated with a user manipulating the first active computer task, properties of an information source of which a search will be conducted, and a state of the first active computer task.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 6, wherein: the instructions, when executed by the data processor, further control the data processing system to determine properties of the first active computer task; and the first weight is tunable based on the properties of the first active computer task.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The system of claim 32, wherein the properties of the first active computer task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, a genre of the first active computer task, attributes associated with a user manipulating the first active computer task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and a state of the first active computer task.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein:

the instructions upon execution by a data processing system cause the data processing system to determine properties of the first active computer task; and the first weight is tunable based on the properties of the first active computer task.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The machine-readable storage device of claim 34, wherein the properties of the first active computer task include at least one of application software being employed to perform the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, a genre of the first active computer task, attributes associated with a user manipulating the first active computer task, properties of an information source on which a search will be conducted, and a state of the first active computer task.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of font style, line height, font size and associated hyperlink.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the stylistic attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active

computer task.

Claim 41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein the stylistic attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active computer task.

Claim 47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer

task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 49. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein the stylistic attribute includes at least one of a list element, a heading, a table heading, a table cell, a navigation bar, a menu, a header, and a footer

Claim 50. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein the stylistic attribute includes a size of a bounding rectangle.

Claim 51. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 52. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active computer task.

Claim 53. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 54. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 9, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 55. (Currently Amended) An adaptive method for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the method comprising:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including a first plurality of text items and a field attribute associated with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the field attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the field attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked items; and

generating and storing first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the field attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the field attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the field attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active computer task.

Claim 62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 64. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the system comprising:
a data processor for processing data;

a data storage device for storing instructions; and
a data transmission path coupled to the data processor and the data storage device;

wherein the instructions, when executed by the data processor, controls the data processing system to perform the machine-implemented steps of:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including a first plurality of text items and a field attribute associated with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the field attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the field attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked items;

generating and storing the first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the field attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the field attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the field attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active computer task.

Claim 71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer

task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.

Claim 73. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage device bearing instructions for obtaining representative text items from a plurality of text items in active computer tasks, the instructions upon execution by a data processing system causing the data processing system to perform the steps of:

receiving first information indicative of a first active computer task, the first information including a first plurality of text items and a field attribute associated with a first text item in the first plurality of text items;

computing a first statistical value indicative of a first number of occurrences of the field attribute in the first active computer task;

for each of the first plurality of text items, assigning a first weight with a first magnitude that is based on the first statistical value and the field attribute;

ranking the first plurality of text items based on the first weight assigned to each of the first plurality of text items to produce a first plurality of ranked items;

generating and storing first representative text items based on the first plurality of ranked items;

wherein the first active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information;

receiving second information indicative of a second active computer task, the second information including a second plurality of text items and the field attribute associated with a second text item in the second plurality of text items;

computing a second statistical value indicative of a second number of occurrences of the field attribute in the second active computer task;

for each of the second plurality of text items, assigning a second weight with a second magnitude that is based on the second statistical value and the field attribute, the second magnitude being different than the first magnitude;

ranking the second plurality of text items based on the second weight assigned to each of the second plurality of text items to produce a second plurality of ranked text items; and

generating and storing second representative text items based on the second plurality of ranked text items;

wherein the second active computer task is a task other than entering search terms for the purpose of retrieving information.

Claim 74. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of an email sender field, an email recipient field, a signature field, and a salutation field.

Claim 75. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein the field attribute includes a web page address field.

Claim 76. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein the field attribute includes at least one of a document template, a header, a footer, a page number, a title, an author, a byline, and a date published.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein the field attribute includes a product name.

Claim 78. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a document genre, a document type, and a document subject matter.

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein assigning the first weight is based on at least one of a genre of the first active computer task, a type of the first active computer task, and a subject matter of the first active computer task.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a user's role in an organization.

Claim 81. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage device of claim 73, wherein assigning the first weight is based on a location of a document associated with the first active computer task, the location being determined by at least one of an associated URL, a file name, a directory name, and a string indicative of file location.